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Message Text

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46
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 IO-13 ACDA-07 SCCT-01 SY-05

DHA-02 ORM-02 PC-01 AID-05 OMB-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 FMC-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 SAL-01

CG-00 DLOS-06 OES-06 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 /126 W
---------- 070272
R 091500Z AUG 76
FM AMCONSUL DURBAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2309
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: MILI, PFOR, SF, NZ
SUBJECT: STRAFING OF SOUTH AFRICAN SHIP

REF: DURBAN 367, 352, 356; MAPUTO 848

1. (UNCLASSIFIED) DURBAN PRESS OVER JULY 31-AUG 1 WEEKEND REPORTED THAT WHEN S.A. VESSEL LIMPOPO RETURNED TO MAPUTO, FRELIMO OFFICIALS CALLED ON VESSEL'S MASTER (CAPT P R RUGG) TO APOLOGIZE FOR EARLIER
AIR ATTACK. ARTICLES SAY FRELIMO EXPLAINED THEY INTENDED TO ATTACK VESSEL NATALIA WHICH WAS BEING ILLEGALLY SAILED FROM MAPUTO BY "FASCISTS". NATALIA INSTEAD SLIPPED THROUGH TO DURBAN, HAD BEEN REPROVISIONED, AND WAS NOW ON WAY TO PORTUGAL.

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2. MURRAY GRINDROD, UNICORN LINES DIRECTOR, CONFIRMED TO

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CONGEN AUGUST 6 THAT HIS GROUP HAD APPROACHED FRELIMO USING
SOUTH AFRICAN RAILROADS AGENT IN MAPUTO AS GO-BETWEEN.
GRINDROD SAID FRELIMO OFFICIALS ACKNOWLEDGED ATTACK WAS IN ERROR,
APOLOGIZED, AND OFFERED TO PAY DAMAGES. MOREOVER, HE SAID
FRELIMO CONFIRMED THAT IT VALUED UNICORN SERVICE FROM DURBAN
TI MOZAMBIQUE PORTS AND WISHED IT TO CONTINUE. ON THIS BASIS
GRINDROD SAID HE WAS GLAD UNICORN HAD MADE DECISION TO SEND
LIMPOPO PROMPTLY BACK TO MAPUTO AFTER ATTACK.

3. PRESS ARTICLES CLAIMED ATTACK ON LIMPOPO HAD BEEN DIRECTEED FROM
A RADAR AND COMMUNICATIONS BASE AT PONTA MILIBANGALALA, NEAR
PULAPULA ON THE MOZAMBIQUE COAST SOUTH OF MAPUTO. BASE, REPORT-
EDLY BEING BUILT BY EAST GERMANS, IS APPROXIMATELY 28 KILO-
METERS NORTH OF SOUTH AFRICAN BORDER AND IS DESIGNED TO USE
"SUBMERGED ELECTRONIC-EAR BUOYS" IN ADDITION TO LAND-BASED
"LISTENING POSTS". ARTICLES BEING POUCHED.
FARBER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760307-0491
From: DURBAN
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ISecure: 1
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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